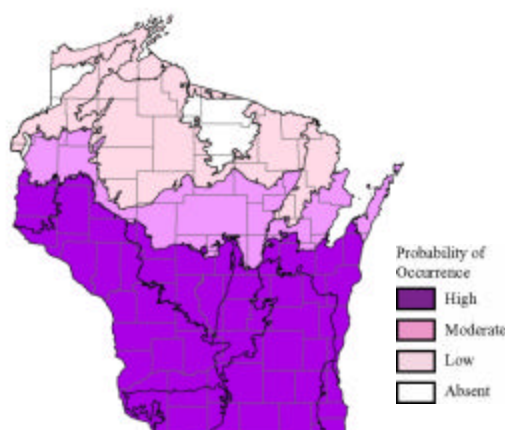


Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	4
Mean Risk Score:	3.7
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Surrogate grasslands
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of grassland habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay and conversion of idle grassland to row crops or to tree plantations.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season.
- Dickcissel is a neotropical migrant and thus faces threats due to habitat conversion or alteration on wintering and migration grounds.
- Deliberate poisoning with agricultural pesticides is a known threat in the wintering grounds; pesticides may be a problem on breeding grounds as well.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Avoid disturbance of breeding habitat until mid- to late-August if possible for this late-nesting species.
- This species prefers habitat with a component of stiff-stemmed forbs.
- Continue agricultural set-aside programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of preferred habitats. Prevent tree planting in important grassland areas, particularly in southern Wisconsin.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Create incentives for delaying grass/legume hay harvest until after the primary breeding season.
- Cost-sharing partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.